

APR 25 2006

Attorney Docket No.: NIDSNZ00101

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Date: April 25, 2006

Signature:  (Laura Shires)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/669,204
Confirmation No.: 2631
Filing Date: September 23, 2003
Inventor(s): Russell A. HOUSER et al.
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TREATING TISSUE
Examiner: A. Farah
Group Art Unit: 3735

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated November 22, 2005 for which a response was due on February 22, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to May 22, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.